DOCUMENT RESUME

ED 339 133 EA 023 534

AUTHOR	Bastian, Lisa D.; Taylor, Bruce M.
TITLE	School Crime: A National Crime Victimization Survey Report.
INSTITUTION	Department of Justice, Washington, D.C. Bureau of Justice Statistics.
REPORT NO	NCJ-131645
PUB DATE	Sep 91
NOTE	28p.
AVAILABLE FROM	Justice Statistics Clearinghouse/NCJRS, U.S. Department of Justice, Box 6000, Rockville, MD 20850.
PUB TYPE	Reports - Research/Technical (143) -- Statistical Data (110) -- Tests/Evaluation Instruments (160)
EDRS PRICE	MF01/PC02 Plus Postage.
DESCRIPTORS	*Crime; Juvenile Gangs; National Surveys; *Profiles; School Safety; *School Statistics; Secondary Education; *Secondary School Students; *Student Attitudes; Student Characteristics; Substance Abuse; Tables (Data); *Victims of Crime

ABSTRACT

This report summarizes students' responses regarding crime at school collected by the National Crime Victimization Survey in a special supplement during the first half of 1989. The data represent an estimated 21.6 million students, ages 12 to 19. The analysis accounts for crime experienced by different groups--males and females; blacks and whites; Hispanics and non-Hispanics; central city, suburban, and rural residents. It also accounts for selected characteristics of schools and students; public and private, grade levels, and security measures. This study asked students for their perceptions regarding such crime issues as the following: How difficult were drugs or alcohol to obtain at school? How prevalent were street gangs in school? How fearful were students of being attacked at school? Information was also gathered on the school environment, victimization, and the efforts to avoid becoming a victim. The data are presented in text and 29 tables. Appended to the report is a page explaining the methodology of the study, the questionnaire, and a list of Bureau of Justice Statistics reports with an order form. (MLF)

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School Crime

A National Crime Victimization Survey Report

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School Crime

A National Crime Victimization Survey Report

By Lisa D. Bastian and Bruce M. Taylor, Ph.D.
BJS Statisticians

September 1991, NCJ-131645

U.S. Department of Justice
Office of Justice Programs
Bureau of Justice Statistics

Steven D. Dillingham, Ph.D.
Director

Acknowledgments. This report was written by Lisa D. Bastian and Bruce M. Taylor of the Bureau of Justice Statistics. Thomas Hester edited the report. Lawrence A. Greenfeld provided initial editorial and statistical guidance. Marilyn Marbrook administered its publication, assisted by Jayne Pugh, Tina Dorsey, and Yvonne Boston. BJS reports are produced under the direction of Michael W. Agopian, Deputy Director for Data Analysis.

The Assistant Attorney General is responsible for matters of administration and management with respect to the Office of Justice Program agencies: Bureau of Justice Statistics, Bureau of Justice Assistance, National Institute of Justice, Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, and Office for Victims of Crime. The Assistant Attorney General further establishes policies and priorities consistent with the statutory purposes of the OJP agencies and the priorities of the Department of Justice.

Data utilized in this report are available from the National Archive of Criminal Justice Data at the University of Michigan, 1-800-999-0950. The data set is archived as the NCVS School Crime Supplement (**ICPSR 9394**).

Foreword

The prevalence of crime in our Nation's schools concerns us all. In addition to the costs to the victims and their families, crimes at school disrupt education and may have longer lasting effects on society than crime committed elsewhere. Any consideration of a response to crime at school must begin with an accurate, national accounting of the extent of such crime and a description of its likely victims.

This report summarizes the responses collected by the National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS) in a special supplement during the first half of 1989. The data represent an estimated 21.6 million students, ages 12 to 19. As do other NCVS reports, this analysis accounts for crime experienced by different groups — males and females; blacks and whites; Hispanics and non-Hispanics; central city, suburban, and rural residents. It also accounts for selected characteristics of schools and students: public and private, grade levels, and security measures.

This study asked students for their perceptions regarding such crime issues as the following: How difficult were drugs or alcohol to obtain at school? How prevalent were street gangs in school? How fearful were students of being attacked at school?

The questionnaire used for the supplement, reprinted on pages 15 to 18, also gathered information on the school environment, victimization, and the efforts to avoid becoming a victim.

This report provides an excellent overview of crime concerns that the students reported. We encourage other researchers to explore the data further. The computerized files are available from the National Archive of Criminal Justice Data at the University of Michigan.

Steven D. Dillingham, Ph.D.
Director

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Introduction

An estimated 9% of students, ages 12 to 19, were crime victims in or around their school over a 6-month period: 2% reported experiencing one or more violent crimes and 7% reported at least one property crime. Violent crime is largely composed of simple assaults. These crimes involve attacks without weapons and may result in minor injury, such as cuts or bruises. Violent crimes can also include aggravated assaults, robberies, and rapes.

Fifteen percent of the students said their school had gangs, and 16% claimed that a student had attacked or threatened a teacher at their school.

Table 1. Students reporting at least one victimization at school, by personal and family characteristics

Student characteristic	Total number of students	Percent of students reporting victimization at school		
		Total	Violent	Property
Sex				
Male	11,166,316	9%	2%	7%
Female	10,387,776	9	2	8
Race				
White	17,306,626	9%	2%	7%
Black	3,449,488	8	2	7
Other	797,978	10	2*	8
Hispanic origin				
Hispanic	2,026,968	7%	3%	5%
Non-Hispanic	19,452,697	9	2	8
Not ascertained	74,428	3*	--	3*
Age				
12	3,220,891	9%	2%	7%
13	3,318,714	10	2	8
14	3,264,574	11	2	9
15	3,214,109	9	3	7
16	3,275,002	9	2	7
17	3,273,628	8	1	7
18	1,755,825	5	1*	4
19	231,348	2*	--	2*
Number of times family moved in last 5 years				
None	18,905,538	8%	2%	7%
Once	845,345	9	2*	7
Twice	610,312	13	3*	11
3 or more	1,141,555	15	6	9
Not ascertained	51,343	5*	5*	--
Family income				
Less than $7,500	2,041,418	8%	2%	6%
$7,500 - $9,999	791,086	4	1*	3
$10,000 - $14,999	1,823,150	9	3	7
$15,000 - $24,999	3,772,445	8	1	8
$25,000 - $29,999	1,845,313	8	2	7
$30,000 - $49,999	5,798,448	10	2	8
$50,000 and over	3,498,382	11	2	9
Not ascertained	1,983,849	7	3	5
Place of residence				
Central city	5,816,321	10%	2%	8%
Suburbs	10,089,207	9	2	7
Nonmetropolitan area	5,648,564	8	1	7

*Estimate is based on 10 or fewer sample cases; see *Methodology*.
--Less than 0.5%.

Among public school students 9% reported drugs as impossible to obtain at school; among private school students, 36% reported drugs to be impossible to obtain at school.

These findings are based on a nationally representative sample survey of more than 10,000 youth who were interviewed from January through June of 1989 and who attended school at any time during the 6 months before the interview.[1] The School Crime Supplement (SCS) was conducted as an enhancement of the National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS), an ongoing household survey that gathers information on the victimization of household members age 12 or older. The survey asks only about crimes that have occurred during the 6 months before the interview.

Other findings from the SCS include the following:

Victimization

- Nine percent of both male and female students had experienced a victimization at school (table 1).

- Students of different races experienced about the same amount of violent or property victimization in and around their schools. However, Hispanic students were less likely than non-Hispanics to have sustained a property crime.

- For crimes at school, the students older than age 17 were generally less likely to be victims than were younger students.

[1]SCS responses were collected only from those respondents attending a primary or secondary school which advanced them toward a high school diploma.

• Students living in families that had moved three or more times in the preceding 5 years were nearly twice as likely to have experienced a criminal victimization as students who had moved no more than once. The frequent movers were 3 times more likely to suffer a violent victimization than students who had moved less often.

Table 2. Students reporting at least one victimization at school, by selected school characteristics

School characteristic	Total number of students	Percent of students reporting victimization at school		
		Total	Violent	Property
Type of school				
Public	19,264,643	9%	2%	8%
Private	1,873,077	7	1*	6
Not ascertained	416,372	6	3*	4*
Grade in school				
6th	1,817,511	10%	3%	8%
7th	3,170,126	9	2	8
8th	3,258,506	9	2	8
9th	3,390,701	11	3	9
10th	3,082,441	9	2	7
11th	3,223,624	8	2	7
12th	3,171,819	6	1	5
Other	439,364	5	3*	3*

*Estimate is based on 10 or fewer cases; see *Methodology*.

• Victimization by violent crime at school had no consistent relation to income levels of the victims' families. For property crime, however, students in families with annual incomes of $50,000 or more were more likely to be victimized than were students whose families earned less than $10,000 a year.

• Public school students (9%) were more likely to be crime victims than private school students (7%) (table 2).

• High school seniors were the least likely students to be crime victims. Ninth grade students were more likely to be crime victims than were students in all higher grades.

Profile of student characteristics

Student characteristic	Students represented in SCS survey	
	Number	Percent
Sex		
Male	11,166,316	52%
Female	10,387,776	48
Race		
White	17,306,626	80%
Black	3,449,488	16
Other	797,978	4
Hispanic origin		
Hispanic	2,026,968	9%
Non-Hispanic	19,452,697	90
Not ascertained	74,428	--
Age		
12	3,220,891	15%
13	3,318,714	15
14	3,264,574	15
15	3,214,109	15
16	3,275,002	15
17	3,273,628	15
18	1,755,825	8
19	231,348	1

Student characteristic	Students represented in SCS survey	
	Number	Percent
Number of times family moved in last 5 years		
None	18,905,538	88%
Once	845,345	4
Twice	610,312	3
Three or more	1,141,555	5
Not ascertained	51,343	--
Family income		
Less than $7,500	2,041,418	9%
$7,500-$9,999	791,086	4
$10,000-$14,999	1,823,150	8
$15,000-$24,999	3,772,445	18
$25,000-$29,999	1,845,313	9
$30,000-$49,999	5,798,448	27
$50,000 and over	3,498,382	16
Not ascertained	1,983,849	9
Place of residence		
Central city	5,816,321	27%
Suburbs	10,089,207	47
Nonmetropolitan area	5,648,564	26
Number of students	21,554,092	

Note: Detail may not total 100% because of rounding.

--Less than 0.5%.

• An estimated 21.6 million youth ages 12 to 19 were enrolled in the Nation's public and private schools between January and June, 1989. About 52% of these students were male, and 48% were female. Approximately 80% were white; 16%, black; and 4%, from other racial groups. ("Other race" includes Asians, Pacific Islanders, and Native Americans.) About 9% of students indicated they were Hispanic.

• Households of 88% of students had not moved for at least 5 years before the interview.

• Approximately 13% of students were in families that earned less than $10,000 annually, and 16% were in families earning at least $50,000.

• About 27% of students lived in central cities, 47% in suburbs, and 26% in nonmetropolitan areas. These residential areas are based on Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) classifications. Suburbs are inside an MSA, but not in a central area, and nonmetropolitan areas are all outside MSA's.

Table 3. Availability of drugs or alcohol at school, by type of drug

Drugs or alcohol at school	Percent of students reporting that obtaining a drug or alcohol at school was					
	Total	Easy	Hard	Impossible	Not known	Drug not known
Alcohol	100%	31%	31%	16%	22%	1%
Marijuana	100	30	27	16	25	1
Cocaine	100	11	33	25	31	1
Crack	100	9	29	28	32	2
Uppers/downers	100	20	26	17	31	5
Other drugs	100	14	27	19	37	3

Note: Detail may not total 100% because of rounding. The total number of students represented was 21,554,092.

Profile of school characteristics

School characteristic	Students represented in SCS survey	
	Number	Percent
Type of school		
Public	19,264,643	89%
Private	1,873,077	9
Not ascertained	416,372	2
Grade in school		
6th	1,817,511	8%
7th	3,170,126	15
8th	3,258,506	15
9th	3,390,701	16
10th	3,082,441	14
11th	3,223,624	15
12th	3,171,819	15
Other	439,364	2
Students' reports of school security measures		
Students cannot leave grounds at lunch	16,159,308	75%
Student spends day in same classroom	1,745,291	8
Teachers monitor halls at class changes*	14,034,906	71
Hall patrols present during day	13,937,237	65
Visitors required to report to office	19,707,748	91
Safe to store valuables in locker	9,329,368	43
Number of students	21,554,092	

Note: Detail may not total 100% because of rounding.
*Students who did not change classes were excluded.

- Eighty-nine percent of students attended public schools, while 9% were in private schools. The remaining 2% did not provide information on the nature of support for their schools.

- The number of students was evenly distributed among grades from 7th to 12th, approximately 15% for each grade. Only 8% of the students were sixth graders because many students in that grade were younger than age 12, the minimum for NCVS respondents.

- Of the school security practices measured by the SCS, the most common was requiring visitors to report to the school office (91%), followed by restricting students to school grounds during lunch (75%), placing teachers in halls during class changes (71%), and patrolling the halls at other times (65%).

- Slightly more than 4 of 10 students believed that valuables were safe in their lockers.

Drugs and alcohol in school

Drugs

- In the first half of 1989 about 30% of the students interviewed believed that marijuana was easy to obtain at school (table 3). In comparison, 9% said crack was easy to obtain, and 11% claimed cocaine to be readily available.

- Overall, students most frequently reported that drugs of any type were hard or impossible to obtain at school. Approximately 58% of students said cocaine and crack were hard or impossible to obtain at school.

Table 4. Availability of drugs, by selected student characteristics

Student characteristic	Total number of students	Percent of students reporting drugs			
		Total	Available	Not available	Not known if available
Sex					
Male	10,593,314	100%	69%	12%	19%
Female	9,776,470	100	66	11	22
Race					
White	16,417,105	100%	69%	11%	20%
Black	3,223,708	100	67	11	22
Other	728,971	100	58	18	24
Hispanic origin					
Hispanic	1,884,679	100%	64%	12%	24%
Non-Hispanic	18,410,678	100	68	11	20
Not ascertained	74,428	100	52	31	16
Age					
12	2,888,982	100%	53%	24%	23%
13	3,078,909	100	60	19	21
14	3,055,401	100	64	13	24
15	3,086,095	100	70	7	23
16	3,168,628	100	76	6	18
17	3,150,323	100	77	6	17
18	1,721,111	100	78	6	16
19	220,336	100	78	5	17
Family income					
Less than $15,000	4,328,990	100%	67%	13%	20%
$15,000-$29,999	5,291,904	100	68	11	21
$30,000-$49,999	5,551,030	100	68	11	21
$50,000 or more	3,321,663	100	70	11	18
Not ascertained	1,876,197	100	66	13	21
Location of residence					
Central city	5,418,166	100%	66%	13%	21%
Suburbs	9,640,427	100	67	11	22
Nonmetropolitan area	5,311,191	100	71	11	18

Note: Detail may not total 100% because of rounding. Cases in which the respondent did not know the types of drugs were excluded. "Available" includes students who said drugs were easy or hard to get at school; "not available" includes those saying drugs were impossible to get at school.

Table 5. Availability of drugs, by selected school characteristics

School characteristic	Total number of students	Percent of students reporting drugs			
		Total	Available	Not available	Not known if available
Type of school					
Public	18,215,207	100%	70%	9%	21%
Private	1,747,408	100	52	36	13
Not known	407,170	100	66	8	26
Grade level					
6th	1,627,384	100%	50%	26%	24%
7th	2,918,290	100	61	17	22
8th	3,034,895	100	60	20	21
9th	3,236,182	100	69	7	24
10th	2,966,953	100	73	7	20
11th	3,104,712	100	79	5	16
12th	3,105,428	100	78	6	16
Other	375,940	100	44	26	30
Gangs					
Present	3,155,169	100%	78%	6%	16%
Not present	16,065,729	100	66	13	20
Not known	1,148,887	100	62	3	34

Note: Detail may not total 100% because of rounding. Cases in which the respondent did not know the types of drugs were excluded. See table 4 for definitions of "available" and "not available."

- A larger proportion of males than of females knew whether drugs were available in school (table 4). Among those students who knew whether someone could obtain drugs at their school, the same proportions of males and females reported that drugs were available.

- Although similar proportions of black (67%) and white (69%) students claimed that drugs were available at school, these students were significantly more likely than persons belonging to other racial groups (58%) to say drugs could be obtained.

- Generally, the older the student (from ages 12 to 15), the more likely he or she was to say that drugs were available at school. However, among those who knew whether a person could obtain drugs at their school, students for each age between 15 and 19 were about equally likely (58%) to have said drugs were available.

- Students' reporting of the availability of drugs in school did not vary significantly by ethnicity or levels of family income.

- Among students who knew whether a person could obtain drugs at their school, no measurable differences distinguished reports of drug availability by central city (84%), suburban (86%), and nonmetropolitan area (86%) students. Central city and suburban students were more likely than nonmetropolitan area students to say that they did not know about the availability of drugs.

- Public school students were more likely than private school students to say drugs were available (70% versus 52%) (table 5).

- About half of the sixth graders reported that drugs were available, compared to three-fourths or more of the students in grades 10 to 12.

• Students who said a person would find drugs easy to obtain were generally more likely to have been victims than students who said someone would find drugs either hard or impossible to obtain (table 6).

Table 6. Victimization of students, by availability of alcohol or drugs at school

Alcohol or drug and availability	Total number of students	Percent of students victimized: Total	Violent	Property
Alcohol				
Easy	6,637,706	11%	2%	9%
Hard	6,712,646	9	2	7
Impossible	3,407,854	8	2	7
Not known	4,673,642	8	2	6
Marijuana				
Easy	6,568,766	11%	3%	9%
Hard	5,918,567	8	1	7
Impossible	3,494,543	8	2	7
Not known	5,396,256	8	2	6
Cocaine				
Easy	2,297,249	11%	4%	9%
Hard	7,034,616	10	2	8
Impossible	5,354,381	9	2	7
Not known	6,655,588	8	2	6
Crack				
Easy	1,862,226	12%	4%	9%
Hard	6,338,322	9	2	7
Impossible	6,018,289	10	2	8
Not known	6,988,776	8	2	6
Uppers/downers				
Easy	4,399,177	12%	3%	10%
Hard	5,555,802	8	1	7
Impossible	3,723,187	8	2	6
Not known	6,760,441	8	2	6
Other drugs				
Easy	2,992,401	13%	4%	10%
Hard	5,895,744	8	1	7
Impossible	4,019,868	8	1	7
Not known	8,029,741	8	2	7

Note: The category "drug not known" has been excluded.

Table 7. Students ever fearing an attack, by availability of drugs at school

Drugs at school	Total number of students	Percent of students ever fearing an attack: At school	Going to and from school
Available	13,846,874	25%	16%
Not available	2,363,931	13	10
Not known if available	4,158,980	17	12

Note: Cases in which the types of drugs were not known to the respondent were excluded. See table 4 for definitions of "available" and "not available."

• Comparing students who said someone could obtain drugs at their school with those in schools where drugs were impossible to obtain, the students in schools with drugs available were twice as likely to fear an attack at school (25% versus 13%) and 1.5 times as likely to fear an attack going to or from school (16% versus 10%) (table 7).

Drug prevention

• Students attending schools in which drugs were available were more likely than students in schools without drugs to indicate that their schools were taking some action to prevent drug use (91% versus 74%) (table 8).

• Nearly a fourth of students in schools where they said drugs were not available reported that their schools had taken no preventative measures.

• Students most frequently said hall patrols were used as a drug prevention measure at school (71%). Other common strategies to prevent drug use included locker searches (46%) and restroom checks (43%) (table 9).

Table 8. Drug prevention measures, by availability of drugs at school

Drugs at school	Total number of students	Percent of students reporting school drug prevention measures: Total	No action	Some action taken	Not known
Available	13,846,874	100%	9%	91%	1%
Not available	2,363,931	100	24	74	1
Not known if available	4,158,980	100	11	86	3

Note: Detail may not total 100% because of rounding. Cases in which the respondent did not know the types of drugs were excluded. See table 4 for definitions of "available" and "not available."

Table 9. Types of drug prevention measures taken at schools

Drug prevention measures	Percent of students reporting
Locker searches	46%
Security guards	25
Hall patrols	71
Restroom checks	43
Other	10
No action taken	11

Note: Detail does not total 100% because respondents may have reported more than one measure.

Drug education classes

• White students (40%) were more likely than black students (36%) to have attended drug education classes (table 10).

• Forty-four percent of students in nonmetropolitan areas said that in the previous 6 months they had attended drug education classes at school. These students were more likely than students from suburban areas (40%) to have attended such classes, and central city students (35%) were the least likely to have attended drug education classes.

• About the same proportions of public and private school students had attended drug education classes, although a larger proportion of those in public schools said that a person could obtain drugs at their school.

• Sixth graders, while the least likely to feel that someone could obtain drugs at their schools, were the most likely to have attended drug education classes (56%). Ninth through twelfth graders were the least likely to have attended drug education classes but claimed, in the largest proportions, that drugs were obtainable at school (see tables 5 and 10).

• Students saying drugs were not available in their school were more likely to have attended drug education classes than students in schools where a person could obtain drugs (44% versus 40%).

Alcohol

• Roughly equal proportions of students said that alcohol was easy or hard to obtain at school (31%) (table 3).

• Students who reported that alcohol was easy to obtain were more likely to have been victims of property crimes than students who claimed that alcohol was hard or impossible to obtain (table 6).

Table 10. Attendance at drug education classes during the previous 6 months, by selected student and school characteristics

Student and school characteristic	Total number of students	Percent of students who had attended drug education classes during the previous 6 months		
		Total	Yes	No
Sex				
Male	11,067,277	100%	39%	61%
Female	10,288,418	100	40	60
Race				
White	17,148,439	100%	40%	60%
Black	3,416,622	100	36	64
Other	790,634	100	39	61
Hispanic origin				
Hispanic	2,014,518	100%	38%	62%
Non-Hispanic	19,268,603	100	40	60
Not ascertained	72,575	100	45	55
Location of residence				
Central city	5,775,761	100%	35%	65%
Suburbs	9,979,126	100	40	60
Nonmetropolitan area	5,600,808	100	44	56
Type of school				
Public	19,104,156	100%	39%	61%
Private	1,852,175	100	41	59
Not known	399,364	100	42	58
Grade level				
6th	1,797,134	100%	56%	44%
7th	3,144,651	100	48	52
8th	3,213,531	100	47	53
9th	3,374,698	100	36	64
10th	3,061,084	100	35	65
11th	3,188,797	100	33	67
12th	3,154,843	100	27	73
Other	420,956	100	43	57
Drug availability				
Available	13,751,166	100%	40%	60%
Not available	2,343,943	100	44	56
Not known	4,095,275	100	35	65

Note: Detail may not total 100% because of rounding. Cases in which the respondent did not know the types of drugs or whether he or she had attended drug education classes were excluded. See table 4 for definitions of "available" and "not available."

Table 11. Availability of alcohol at school, by selected student characteristics

Student characteristic	Total number of students	Percent of students reporting alcohol			
		Total	Available	Not available	Not known if available
Sex					
Male	11,101,022	100%	63%	16%	20%
Female	10,330,826	100	61	15	23
Race					
White	17,212,097	100%	63%	16%	21%
Black	3,421,773	100	60	15	26
Other	797,978	100	54	21	25
Hispanic origin					
Hispanic	2,007,971	100%	56%	18%	26%
Non-Hispanic	19,349,450	100	63	16	21
Not ascertained	74,428	100	46	31	23
Age					
12	3,191,908	100%	45%	28%	27%
13	3,292,209	100	54	21	25
14	3,232,719	100	59	15	25
15	3,203,049	100	65	11	24
16	3,270,114	100	70	11	19
17	3,262,485	100	74	11	15
18	1,749,721	100	74	12	14
19	229,644	100	66	11	24
Family income					
Less than $15,000	4,615,648	100%	58%	18%	24%
$15,000-$29,999	5,594,006	100	63	15	22
$30,000-$49,999	5,774,766	100	64	15	22
$50,000 or more	3,486,562	100	65	17	18
Not ascertained	1,960,866	100	62	16	23
Location of residence					
Central city	5,770,121	100%	58%	18%	24%
Suburbs	10,046,860	100	62	15	23
Nonmetropolitan area	5,614,868	100	67	15	18

Note: Detail may not total 100% because of rounding. Cases in which alcohol was not known to the respondent were excluded. "Available" includes students who said alcohol was easy or hard to get at school; "not available" includes those saying alcohol was impossible to get at school.

Table 12. Availability of alcohol, by selected school characteristics

School characteristic	Total number of students	Percent of students reporting alcohol			
		Total	Available	Not available	Not known if available
Type of school					
Public	19,151,251	100%	63%	14%	23%
Private	1,866,688	100	52	36	12
Not known	413,910	100	61	10	29
Grade level					
6th	1,803,734	100%	42%	30%	28%
7th	3,143,322	100	54	20	26
8th	3,242,654	100	54	22	24
9th	3,369,959	100	65	10	25
10th	3,066,172	100	68	12	20
11th	3,208,228	100	73	10	17
12th	3,171,819	100	75	12	13
Other	425,960	100	36	32	32

Note: Detail may not total 100% because of rounding. Cases in which alcohol was not known to the respondent were excluded. See table 11 for definitions of "available" and "not available."

Findings on the availability of alcohol in school resemble the findings on drug availability with a few exceptions:

- Non-Hispanics were more likely than Hispanics to report that a person could obtain alcohol at school (63% versus 56%) (table 11).

- Students whose families earned under $15,000 a year were less likely than students in families with higher incomes to say that a person could obtain alcohol at school.

- Among students who knew whether or not a person could obtain alcohol in their school, suburban (80%) and nonmetropolitan area (82%) students were more likely than urban (76%) students to have claimed that alcohol was available in their schools.

- The higher their grade level, the more likely the students were to report that alcohol was available at their school (table 12).

- Students who reported alcohol to be available at school were more likely to fear attack than students who reported alcohol as being unavailable (table 13).

Table 13. Students ever fearing an attack, by availability of alcohol at school

Alcohol at school	Total number of students	Percent of students ever fearing an attack	
		At school	Going to and from school
Available	13,350,352	24%	16%
Not available	3,407,854	17	12
Not known if available	4,673,642	19	14

Note: Cases in which alcohol was not known to the respondent were excluded. See table 11 for definitions of "available" and "not available."

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Gangs

• Seventy-nine percent of students said no gangs existed at their schools; 15% reported gangs, while another 5% were not sure whether gangs existed at their schools (table 14).

• Of those students who said there were or could be gangs at their school, 37% reported that the gang members never fought at school. An additional 19% claimed that gang members fought once or twice a year, while 12% said that members fought once or twice a week or even every day.

• Sixteen percent of respondents claimed that a student had attacked or threatened a teacher at their school in the 6 months before the interview. Nearly three-fourths said no attacks or threats against teachers had occurred at their schools, and an additional 11% did not know.

• Among all students, the 15% who reported the presence of gangs were more likely than students from schools without gangs to be victims of some type of crime (12% versus 8%) (table 15).

• A higher percentage of black students (20%) than white students (14%) said their school had gangs (table 16). A relatively high proportion of Hispanics (32%), compared to non-Hispanics (14%), attended schools with gangs.

• Overall, about the same percentage of students of different ages reported gangs at school, except that the schools of students age 12 were somewhat less likely to have gangs than the schools of students ages 14 to 17.

• Students in households with an income below $30,000 a year were more likely to attend a school that had gangs than were students in families with higher annual incomes.

• Students in central cities were the most likely to report gangs at their schools (25%); nonmetropolitan area students the least (8%).

• Students at schools with gangs were about twice as likely as students from schools without gangs to be afraid of attack, both at school and on the way to or from school (table 17).

• Students at schools with gangs were more likely to avoid areas inside the school, such as restrooms or hallways, than areas outside the school building.

• Seventy-eight percent of students at schools with gangs reported that a person could obtain drugs at school, compared to 66% of students at schools without gangs (table 5).

Table 14. Students reporting gangs at school and attacks on teachers

	Total number of students	Percent of students reporting
Street gangs at school		
Present	3,300,826	15%
Not present	17,041,519	79
Not known or not ascertained	1,211,747	5
Frequency of fights between gang members*		
Never	1,678,041	37%
Once or twice a year	843,607	19
One or twice a month	743,649	16
Once or twice a week	337,868	7
Almost every day	219,516	5
Not ascertained	689,894	15
Attacks or threats on teachers		
Yes	3,468,631	16%
No	15,639,976	73
Not known or not ascertained	2,445,485	11

Note: Percentage distributions may not total 100% because of rounding.
*Excludes cases in which the student indicated that there were no gangs at school.

Table 15. Victimization of students, by gang presence at school

Gangs	Total number of students	Percent of students reporting victimization: Total	Violent	Property
Present	3,300,826	12%	3%	9%
Not present	17,041,519	8	2	7
Not known	1,211,747	8	2	7

Table 16. Students reporting gang presence at school, by selected student characteristics

Student characteristic	Total number of students	Percent of students reporting gangs
Sex		
Male	11,166,316	16%
Female	10,387,776	15
Race		
White	17,306,626	14%
Black	3,449,488	20
Other	797,978	25
Hispanic origin		
Hispanic	2,026,968	32%
Non-Hispanic	19,452,697	14
Not ascertained	74,428	12 *
Age		
12	3,220,891	12%
13	3,318,714	15
14	3,264,574	18
15	3,214,109	16
16	3,275,002	16
17	3,273,628	15
18	1,755,825	14
19	231,348	17
Family income		
Less than $7,500	2,041,418	17%
$7,500-$9,999	791,086	21
$10,000-$14,999	1,823,150	21
$15,000-$24,999	3,772,445	18
$25,000-$29,999	1,845,313	16
$30,000-$49,999	5,798,448	13
$50,000 and over	3,498,382	11
Not ascertained	1,983,849	16
Place of residence		
Central city	5,816,321	25%
Suburbs	10,089,207	14
Nonmetropolitan area	5,648,564	8

*Estimate is based on 10 or fewer cases; see *Methodology*.

Table 17. Students fearing an attack or avoiding areas inside or outside of school, by gang presence at school

Gangs	Total number of students	Percent of students: Ever fearing an attack: At school	Ever fearing an attack: Going to and from school	Avoiding areas: Inside school	Avoiding areas: Outside school
Present	3,300,826	35%	24%	13%	8%
Not present	17,041,519	18	12	3	2
Not known	1,211,747	34	31	8	4

Fear of crime at school

• Victims of violent crimes were about 3 times as likely as nonvictims to report they were afraid of being attacked at school (53% versus 19%) (table 18).

The overwhelming majority of students who had not been victimized reported no fear of attack, either at school (81%) or on the way to and from school (87%).

• Seventy-four percent of violent crime victims said that they never feared attack on the way to and from school; 47% never feared attack at school.

• Students who had been robbed or assaulted during the previous 6 months were more likely to avoid certain places at school out of fear of attack or harm (25%) than those who had experienced a theft or attempted theft (10%). About 5% of those who had not been victimized reported staying away from places at school to avoid attacks (table 19).

• Six percent of students indicated they avoided some place in or around their school because they thought someone might attack or harm them there (table 20). School restrooms (3%) were most often mentioned as a place students avoided, followed by school hallways (2%).

Table 18. Students fearing attack, by location and whether victimized by violent crime during previous 6 months

Location of feared attack and whether victim of violent crime	Total number of students	Percent of students fearing an attack				
		Total	Never	Almost never	Some-times	Most times
At school						
Violent crime victims	430,819	100%	47%	28%	18%	7%
Nonvictims	16,672,027	100	81	15	4	–
In travel to and from school						
Violent crime victims	430,819	100%	74%	15%	8%	3%*
Nonvictims	16,643,909	100	87	10	3	–

Note: Percentages may not total 100% because of rounding. The category "not ascertained" has been excluded on each fear variable.

*Estimate is based on 10 or fewer sample cases; see *Methodology*.
–Less than 0.5%.

Table 19. Students avoiding places at school out of fear, by victimization during previous 6 months

Type of victimization at school	Total number of students	Percent of students ever avoiding places at school out of fear
Any victimization		
Yes	1,927,162	12%
No	19,626,931	5
Any violent victimization		
Yes	430,819	25%
No	21,123,273	5
Any property victimization		
Yes	1,574,354	10%
No	19,979,738	6

Table 20. Students avoiding places inside or outside school out of fear of crime

Place avoided	Percent of students avoiding places out of fear of crime
Shortcut	1.5%
Inside school	
Entrance	1.3%
Hallways	2.1
Cafeteria	1.6
Restroom	2.7
Other places	1.1
Outside school	
Parking lot	1.3%
Other places	1.7

• About the same percentage of male and female students feared an attack at school and avoided certain places because of that fear (table 21). However, female students expressed more fear of attack going to and from school than did male students.

• About the same percentage of black students, white students, and students of other races such as Asians and American Indians reported being afraid of attack at school and avoiding a place out of fear. However, more black students (21%) and students of other races (18%) feared attack going to and from school than did white students (13%).

• Hispanic students were more likely than non-Hispanics to indicate fear of attack both at school and going to and from school. Compared to non-Hispanic students, Hispanics were more likely to have avoided at least one place at school out of fear of being hurt.

• Younger students were more likely than older students to fear attack at school or going to and from school. Also, younger students were more likely to avoid certain places than were older students — 12-year-olds being twice as likely to report such action as 18-year-olds.

• Students whose families had moved twice or more during the previous 5 years were more likely to report being afraid of attack at school than were students who had moved less frequently.

• Generally, students from families with low incomes were the most likely to be afraid of attacks at school and to avoid places because of that fear.

• Students in central cities were more likely than suburban students to indicate that they at least occasionally feared attack at school and that they avoided certain places out of fear. Central city students were also more likely to fear attack going to and from school than were either suburban or nonmetropolitan area students.

Table 21. Students avoiding places at school out of fear, or ever fearing an attack, by selected student characteristics

Student characteristic	Total number of students	Percent of students		
		Avoiding places at school	Ever fearing an attack	
			At school	Going to and from school
Sex				
Male	11,166,316	6%	22%	14%
Female	10,387,776	6	21	16
Race				
White	17,306,626	6%	22%	13%
Black	3,449,488	7	22	21
Other	797,978	6	22	18
Hispanic origin				
Hispanic	2,026,968	8%	26%	22%
Non-Hispanic	19,452,697	6	21	14
Not ascertained	74,428	14*	23*	19*
Age				
12	3,220,891	8%	27%	18%
13	3,318,714	7	27	17
14	3,264,574	7	24	15
15	3,214,109	6	21	13
16	3,275,002	5	20	14
17	3,273,628	4	17	12
18	1,755,825	4	13	10
19	231,348	8*	20	15
Number of times family moved in last 5 years				
None	18,905,538	6%	21%	15%
Once	845,345	5	18	11
Twice	610,312	8	27	16
3 or more	1,141,555	6	26	16
Not ascertained	51,343	7	24*	14*
Family income				
Less than $7,500	2,041,418	8%	24%	18%
$7,500-$9,999	791,086	9	25	18
$10,000-$14,999	1,823,150	8	25	19
$15,000-$24,999	3,772,445	6	23	15
$25,000-$29,999	1,845,313	6	21	15
$30,000-$49,999	5,798,448	5	21	13
$50,000 or more	3,498,382	4	19	11
Not ascertained	1,983,849	5	18	16
Place of residence				
Central city	5,816,321	8%	24%	19%
Suburbs	10,089,207	5	20	12
Nonmetroplitan area	5,648,564	6	22	13

*Estimate is based on 10 or fewer sample cases; see *Methodology*.

Table 22. Students avoiding places at school out of fear, or ever fearing an attack, by location, race, and Hispanic origin

Location, race, and Hispanic origin	Total number of students	Percent of students: Avoiding places at school	Ever fearing an attack: At school	Ever fearing an attack: Going to and from school
Central city				
Race				
White	3,769,413	7%	25%	18%
Black	1,766,798	8	22	24
Other	280,111	11	20	18
Hispanic origin				
Hispanic	964,145	10%	28%	26%
Non-Hispanic	4,826,185	7	23	18
Not ascertained	25,992	11*	7*	7*
Suburbs				
Race				
White	8,776,228	5%	20%	12%
Black	919,265	4	21	15
Other	393,714	4	20	19
Hispanic origin				
Hispanic	783,655	6%	23%	21%
Non-Hispanic	9,278,865	5	20	12
Not ascertained	26,687	21	38*	33*
Nonmetropolitan areas				
Race				
White	4,760,985	6%	21%	12%
Black	763,425	9	24	20
Other	124,154	4	32	13*
Hispanic origin				
Hispanic	279,168	6%	24%	13%
Non-Hispanic	5,347,647	6	22	14
Not ascertained	21,749	9*	23*	16*

*Estimate is based on 10 or fewer sample cases; see *Methodology*.

Table 23. Students avoiding places at school out of fear, or ever fearing an attack, by school characteristics

School characteristic	Total number of students	Percent of students: Avoiding places at school	Ever fearing an attack: At school	Ever fearing an attack: Going to and from school
Type of school				
Public	19,264,643	6%	22%	15%
Private	1,873,077	3	13	14
Not ascertained	416,372	7	30	16
Grade in school				
6th	1,817,511	8%	25%	18%
7th	3,170,126	9	29	18
8th	3,258,506	6	25	17
9th	3,390,701	7	22	13
10th	3,082,441	5	22	14
11th	3,223,624	4	16	13
12th	3,171,819	4	15	11
Other	439,364	7	21	15

• Black students in the central city were more likely to harbor fear of attack going to and from school (24%) than were suburban blacks (15%) (table 22). Similarly, white students in the central city were more likely to fear such an attack (18%) than were suburban whites (12%).

• Among students in the central city, blacks (24%) were more likely than whites (18%) to fear an attack going to and from school. Suburban students of different races reported about the same level of fear.

• Public school students (22%) were substantially more likely than students in private schools (13%) to indicate some level of fear of attack at school (table 23). Students in public schools were also twice as likely as private school students to avoid certain places at school out of fear.

• Students going to and from school by car were the least likely of all students — and those using public transit the most likely — to claim they had feared attack going to and from school (table 24). Students who walked were more likely to fear attack going to and from school, to avoid the shortest route to school, and to stay away from places outside the school building out of fear than were students using other modes of transportation except public transit.

Objects for self-protection

• Two percent of students had taken something to school to protect themselves from attack or harm at least once during a 6-month period (table 25). Objects for protection could have included weapons like a gun, knife, or brass knuckles, or things that could be used as weapons — razor blades, spiked jewelry, and other objects capable of hurting an assailant.

• Students in central cities (3%) were more likely than those in the suburbs (2%) to report taking to school something that could be used as a weapon; students in nonmetropolitan areas (1%) were the least likely to arm themselves with objects for protection. Males (3%) were slightly more likely than females (1%) to take such objects to school.

School security measures

• The SCS asked students whether teachers stood in doorways and monitored hallways during class changes, whether anyone patrolled hallways, and whether visitors were required to report to the school office. Black students were

Table 24. Students ever fearing crime or avoiding areas outside school, by mode of transportation to and from school

Transportation to and from school	Total number of students	Percent of students: Ever fearing an attack going to and from school	Avoiding out of fear: Shortest route	Avoiding out of fear: Places outside school building
Walking	2,725,213	25%	4%	6%
School bus	7,965,766	13	1	3
Public transportation	808,325	31	4	6
Car	7,257,804	8	1	2
Other, including combined modes	2,757,608	20	2	3
Not ascertained	39,376	--	--	--

--Less than 0.5%.

Table 25. Students reporting that they had taken something to school to protect themselves

Student characteristic	Total number of students	Percent of students who had taken a weapon or object to school for protection
Sex		
Male	11,166,316	3%
Female	10,387,776	1
Race		
White	17,306,626	2%
Black	3,449,488	2
Other	797,978	2
Hispanic origin		
Hispanic	2,026,968	2%
Non-Hispanic	19,452,697	2
Not ascertained	74,428	--
Place of residence		
Central city	5,816,321	3%
Suburbs	10,089,207	2
Nonmetroplitan area	5,648,564	1

Table 26. Security measures taken at school, by selected student characteristics

Student characteristic	Total number of students who changed classrooms*	Percent of students reporting teachers monitor class changes	Total number of students	Percent of students reporting: Hall patrols during day	Percent of students reporting: Visitor sign-in
Sex					
Male	10,179,574	70%	11,166,316	65%	91%
Female	9,629,228	72	10,387,776	65	92
Race					
White	15,926,642	70%	17,306,626	63%	91%
Black	3,161,172	79	3,449,488	74	95
Other	720,988	51	797,978	66	90
Hispanic origin					
Hispanic	1,827,924	68%	2,026,968	72%	92%
Non-Hispanic	17,916,870	71	19,452,697	64	91
Not ascertained	63,907	64	74,428	66	100
Age					
12	2,372,119	74%	3,220,891	51%	88%
13	3,007,975	79	3,318,714	60	91
14	3,101,059	74	3,264,574	64	92
15	3,113,560	69	3,214,109	70	93
16	3,166,217	67	3,275,002	71	93
17	3,198,295	67	3,273,628	70	92
18	1,647,956	66	1,755,825	69	92
19	201,619	68	231,348	71	90
Family income					
Less than $7,500	1,824,165	76%	2,041,418	67%	93%
$7,500-$9,999	702,516	77	791,086	69	95
$10,000-$14,999	1,615,366	75	1,823,150	63	92
$15,000-$24,999	3,463,960	72	3,772,445	66	91
$25,000-$29,999	1,714,809	73	1,845,313	64	91
$30,000-$49,999	5,352,099	72	5,798,448	64	91
$50,000 and over	3,306,509	60	3,498,382	62	90
Not ascertained	1,829,377	70	1,983,849	66	93
Place of residence					
Central city	5,217,390	71%	5,816,321	69%	91%
Suburbs	9,380,062	68	10,089,207	63	91
Nonmetropolitan area	5,211,349	77	5,648,564	62	92

*Excludes students who remained in the same classroom all day.

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more likely than students of other racial groups to report that their schools took such security measures (table 26).

• Hispanic students were more likely than non-Hispanics to attend schools where halls were patrolled.

• Teacher monitors were less common in schools attended by students age 15 or older. However, these older students were more likely than other students to indicate that nonteachers patrolled their halls.

• Students whose annual family income was less than $15,000 were the most likely to attend schools where teachers monitored class changes and visitors had to sign in. Students whose families earned less than $30,000 annually reported school hall patrols more frequently than other students.

• Students from nonmetropolitan areas were the most likely to attend schools using teacher monitors, and suburban students the least likely. Students from urban centers were more likely to have their halls patrolled than students from other areas.

• Violent crime occurred about as frequently in schools using security measures like hall monitors as in schools without such measures, according to student reports (table 27).

• Students in schools using hall monitors or patrols as a security measure were more likely to fear an attack than those attending schools without monitors or patrols (table 28).

• Two-thirds of all students reported that those caught fighting or drunk at school could be suspended (table 29). Approximately 38% indicated that students who cut class could also be suspended and/or given detention. By comparison, a fourth of the survey participants said students who were disrespectful to teachers could be suspended. Students were most likely to be sent to the principal's office and/or given detention for being disrespectful.

Table 27. Victimization of students at school, by school security measures

School security measure	Total number of students	Percent of students reporting victimization		
		Total	Violent	Property
Teacher hall monitors				
Yes	14,034,906	9%	2%	8%
No	5,676,190	10	2	8
Other hall monitors				
Yes	13,937,237	10%	2%	8%
No	7,456,759	7	2	6
Visitor sign-in				
Yes	19,707,768	9%	2%	7%
No	765,387	9	2*	7
Open school				
Yes	4,416,242	10%	2%	8%
No	16,159,308	9	2	7
Only certain grades	811,087	10	3*	8

Note: The category "not ascertained" on each security measure has been excluded.
*Estimate is based on 10 or fewer sample cases; see *Methodology*.

Table 28. Students ever fearing attack at school, by school security measures

School security measure	Total number of students	Percent of students ever fearing an attack at school
Teacher monitors		
Yes	14,034,906	23%
No	5,676,190	20
Other hall monitors		
Yes	13,937,237	24%
No	7,456,759	18
Visitor sign-in		
Yes	19,707,768	22%
No	765,387	20

Note: The category "not ascertained" on each security measure has been excluded.

Table 29. Disciplinary actions that students reported, by infractions

Disciplinary action	Percent of students reporting what happens to a student caught			
	Not respecting a teacher	Fighting	Drunk at school	Cutting class
Nothing	2%	--	--	1%
Disciplined by a teacher	19	5	2	5
Sent to the principal's office	52	44	28	30
Parents are notified	21	26	27	25
Detention	38	20	5	39
Suspension	25	66	67	38
Other	10	9	17	11
Not known	3	2	15	8

Note: Detail will not total to 100% because respondents may have reported more than one action for each infraction. The number of students represented was 21,554,092.
--Less than 0.5%.

Methodology

The National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS) collects data on crime from a nationally representative sample of households (47,000 in 1990). When a household is selected for inclusion in the sample, household members age 12 or older are interviewed every 6 months for 3 years. During each interview information is obtained about the personal victimizations, if any, experienced by the interviewee in the 6 months preceding the interview. One member, generally over age 18, is also designated the household respondent, from whom information is obtained about all crimes committed against the household during the preceding 6 months.

The NCVS measures both attempted and completed incidents of the violent crimes of rape, robbery, and aggravated and simple assault; personal thefts with and without contact; and the household crimes of burglary, household larceny, and motor vehicle theft.

This report presents data collected in interviews conducted from January through June of 1989 as a supplement to the regular NCVS data collection program. It focuses on personal crimes of violence and theft that were committed inside a school building or on school property only.

The eligible respondents for this School Crime Supplement (SCS) were those household members who were between the ages of 12 and 19, had attended school at any time during the 6 months preceding the interview, and were enrolled in a school which would advance them towards the eventual receipt of a high school diploma. The number of valid respondents for the supplement was 10,449.

The tables that deal with crime measure victimization in terms of prevalence rather than incidence. Thus, victimization is measured in terms of how widespread it is among survey respondents rather than in terms of how frequently all victims had been victimized during the measurement period. Each individual who has been the victim of a violent crime, for example, is counted once in the violent crime index even if he or she has been victimized multiple times, each in separate violent incidents.

Unweighted counts of crimes occurring at school, from the NCVS survey instrument, reveal a slight underreporting of these crimes in the SCS. The supplement is administered to eligible respondents only after completion of their entire NCS interview. Thus, some students may forget to report to the supplement all victimizations occurring at school that were previously noted in the NCVS interview. In order to obtain the most complete count of crimes occurring at school and their characteristics, the authors chose to tally crimes committed against eligible SCS respondents by using NCVS victimizations of these respondents which were reported to have occurred at school.

In this report, nonvictims are those valid respondents who did not report any victimizations on either the NCVS questionnaire or the SCS.

Estimation procedures

An *incident* is a specific criminal act involving one or more victims, while a *victimization* refers to the criminal act as it affects a single victim. Therefore, because personal crimes may involve more than one victim, the number of victimizations is determined by the number of victims of the crime. This number is calculated by the application of a victim-weight, using standard NCVS weighting procedures, which results in a national estimate of victimization.

The data in this report have been weighted by a special "school crime" weight. This weight differs from the victim-weight in that incoming (first interview) as well as continuing household rotation groups are used in its computation. For a detailed description of NCVS estimation procedures, see appendix III of **Criminal Victimization in the United States, 1989** (NCJ-129391).

Reliability of comparisons

All comparisons made in this report were tested to determine whether the differences between groups were statistically significant. The comparisons presented are significant at the 95% confidence level or above, except where qualified by phrases such as, "somewhat" or "some evidence", which indicate significance at the 90% confidence level only. Statistical significance at the 95% confidence level requires that the estimated difference between the values being compared is greater than twice the standard error of this difference.

Tables also note when estimates are based on 10 or fewer sample cases; standard errors cannot be computed accurately for such estimates. It is particularly inadvisable to compare these with other estimates based on a small sample size.

Definition of terms

Hall monitors: Hall monitors other than teachers such as security guards, principals, or other students.

Inside areas: Inside areas include hallways, stairs, cafeterias, restrooms, and any other areas inside of the school building.

Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA): A county or group of counties containing at least one city or combined cities of 50,000 or more inhabitants and adjacent counties which are metropolitan in character and are economically and socially integrated with the central city. The MSA is named after the central city (or cities) contained in it. Boundaries are drawn by the U.S. Office of Management and Budget.

Open school: A school in which students are permitted to leave the school grounds during lunch.

Other drugs: Other illegal drugs such as heroine, LSD, PCP, and unspecified drugs which may be available at school.

Other race: Includes Asians, Pacific Islanders, and Native Americans.

Outside areas: Outside areas include entrances into the school, parking lots, and any other areas on school grounds.

Property crime: In this report, this crime category comprises personal larceny, with or without contact, and motor vehicle theft.

Violent crime: Includes the crimes of rape, robbery, and simple and aggravated assault.

OMB No. 1121-0139: Approval Expires 12/31/89

We estimate that it will take from 5 to 15 minutes to complete this interview, with 10 minutes being the average time. If you have any comments regarding these estimates or any other aspect of this survey, send them to the Associate Director for Management Services, Room 2027, Bureau of the Census, Washington, DC 20233; or to the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget, Washington, DC 20503.

NOTICE – Your report to the Census Bureau is **confidential** by law (U.S. Code 42, Sections 3789g and 3735). All identifiable information will be used only by persons engaged in and for the purposes of the survey, and may not be disclosed or released to others for any purposes.

FORM **SCS-1** (11-22-88)

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
BUREAU OF THE CENSUS
ACTING AS COLLECTING AGENT FOR THE
BUREAU OF JUSTICE STATISTICS
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

NATIONAL CRIME SURVEY
SCHOOL CRIME SUPPLEMENT

PGM 2

Sample: J____

Control number: PSU | Segment | CK | Serial

A. Field representative code — 1000

B. Respondent — 1001 Line No. | 1002 Age | Name

C. Type of interview — 1003

1 ☐ Personal – Self
2 ☐ Telephone – Self
3 ☐ Personal – Proxy
4 ☐ Telephone – Proxy
} *SKIP TO ITEM 1, SECTION E*
5 ☐ Noninterview – *FILL ITEM D*

D. Reason for noninterview — 1004

1 ☐ NCS noninterview
SCS noninterview
2 ☐ Refused
3 ☐ Not available
4 ☐ Physically or mentally unable and no proxy available

FIELD REPRESENTATIVE – *Read introduction* –

Now I have some additional questions about your school activities.

E. Screen Questions For Supplement

1. Were you attending school at any time during the last six months? PGM 3 — 1005

1 ☐ Yes
2 ☐ No – *END INTERVIEW*

2. In what month did your current school year begin? — 1006

1 ☐ August
2 ☐ September
3 ☐ Other – *Specify* _____

3. Did you attend school for all of the last six months? — 1007

1 ☐ Yes – *SKIP to question 5*
2 ☐ No

4. How many months were you in school during the last six months? — 1008

1 ☐ One month
2 ☐ Two months
3 ☐ Three months
4 ☐ Four months
5 ☐ Five months

5. What grade are you in school? — 1009

1 ☐ Sixth
2 ☐ Seventh
3 ☐ Eighth
4 ☐ Ninth
5 ☐ Tenth
6 ☐ Eleventh
7 ☐ Twelfth
8 ☐ Other – *Specify* _____
9 ☐ College level – *END INTERVIEW*

F. Environmental Questions

6a. What is the name of your school?

_____
_____
1010 ☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐

b. In what city, county, and state is your school located?

_____ City
1011 ☐☐☐☐☐ _____ County
1012 ☐☐ _____ State

7. Is your school public or private? — 1013

1 ☐ Public
2 ☐ Private

8. What grades are taught in your school? — 1014, 1015

Grades: ☐☐ to ☐☐

9. How far away from your home is the school you attend?

READ THE CATEGORIES.

1016

1 ☐ **Less than 1 mile**
2 ☐ **1 – 5 miles**
3 ☐ **6 – 10 miles**
4 ☐ **11 – 25 miles**
5 ☐ **More than 25 miles**
6 ☐ **Don't know how far**

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F. Environmental Questions — Continued

10. How do you get to school most of the time? — 1017

1 ☐ Walk
2 ☐ School bus
3 ☐ Public bus, subway, train
4 ☐ Car
5 ☐ Bicycle, motorbike, or motorcycle
6 ☐ Some other way — *Specify* →

11. How do you get home from school most of the time? — 1018

1 ☐ Walk
2 ☐ School bus
3 ☐ Public bus, subway, train
4 ☐ Car
5 ☐ Bicycle, motorbike, or motorcycle
6 ☐ Some other way — *Specify* →

12. Are most students at your school allowed to leave the school grounds to eat lunch? — 1019

1 ☐ Yes
2 ☐ No
3 ☐ Only certain grades
4 ☐ Don't know

13. In the past six months, have you participated in or attended any extra-curricular school activities? — 1020

1 ☐ Yes
2 ☐ No

14. Do you spend most of the schoolday in the same classroom? — 1021

1 ☐ Yes — *SKIP to question 16*
2 ☐ No

15. During class changes, do teachers stand in the doorways and monitor the halls? — 1022

1 ☐ Yes
2 ☐ No

16. Does anyone (else) patrol the hallways during school hours? — 1023

1 ☐ Yes
2 ☐ No

17. Are visitors to your school required to report to the school office? — 1024

1 ☐ Yes
2 ☐ No
3 ☐ Don't know

18. Is it safe to store money or valuables in your locker at school? — 1025

1 ☐ Yes
2 ☐ No
3 ☐ Don't have lockers
4 ☐ Don't know

19. What happens to a student who gets caught doing the following things in your school?
READ THE ANSWER CATEGORIES IF NECESSARY.
Mark (X) all that apply.

a. Being disrespectful to teachers? — 1026

1 ☐ Nothing
2 ☐ Student disciplined by teacher
3 ☐ Student sent to the principal's office
4 ☐ Student's parents are notified
5 ☐ Detention
6 ☐ Suspension
7 ☐ Other — *Specify* →
8 ☐ Don't know

b. Fighting with other students? — 1027

Mark (X) all that apply.

1 ☐ Nothing
2 ☐ Student disciplined by teacher
3 ☐ Student sent to the principal's office
4 ☐ Student's parents are notified
5 ☐ Detention
6 ☐ Suspension
7 ☐ Other — *Specify* →
8 ☐ Don't know

c. Drinking or being drunk at school? — 1028

Mark (X) all that apply.

1 ☐ Nothing
2 ☐ Student disciplined by teacher
3 ☐ Student sent to the principal's office
4 ☐ Student's parents are notified
5 ☐ Detention
6 ☐ Suspension
7 ☐ Other — *Specify* →
8 ☐ Don't know

d. Cutting classes? — 1029

Mark (X) all that apply.

1 ☐ Nothing
2 ☐ Student disciplined by teacher
3 ☐ Student sent to the principal's office
4 ☐ Student's parents are notified
5 ☐ Detention
6 ☐ Suspension
7 ☐ Other — *Specify* →
8 ☐ Don't know

F. Environmental Questions — Continued

20. Have you attended any drug education classes in your school during the last six months? — 1030

1 ☐ Yes
2 ☐ No
3 ☐ Don't know

21. Does your school try to prevent students from having drugs or alcohol in school in any of the following ways? — 1031 *

READ THE CATEGORIES.

Mark (X) all that apply.

1 ☐ **Locker searches**
2 ☐ **Security guards**
3 ☐ **Teachers or principal patrolling halls and school grounds**
4 ☐ **Surprise restroom checks**
5 ☐ **Other** — *Specify* _____
6 ☐ **School takes no preventative action**

22. The following question refers to the availability of drugs and alcohol in school.
Tell me if you don't know what any of these items are.
How easy or hard is it for someone to get the following things at your school?
READ THE CATEGORIES.

		Easy	Hard	Impossible	DK	Don't know drug
a. Alcoholic beverages	1032	1☐	2☐	3☐	4☐	5☐
b. Marijuana	1033	1☐	2☐	3☐	4☐	5☐
c. Cocaine	1034	1☐	2☐	3☐	4☐	5☐
d. Crack	1035	1☐	2☐	3☐	4☐	5☐
e. Uppers/downers	1036	1☐	2☐	3☐	4☐	5☐
f. Other illegal drugs	1037	1☐	2☐	3☐	4☐	5☐

23. Are there any street gangs at your school? — 1038

1 ☐ Yes
2 ☐ No — *SKIP to question 25*
3 ☐ Don't know

24. How often do street gang members fight with each other at school? — 1039

1 ☐ Never or almost never
2 ☐ Once or twice a year
3 ☐ Once or twice a month
4 ☐ Once or twice a week
5 ☐ Almost every day

25. In the last six months, did a student attack or threaten to attack a teacher in your school? — 1040

1 ☐ Yes
2 ☐ No
3 ☐ Don't know

G. Victimization

READ THE FOLLOWING —
The following questions are about crimes that may have happened to you at school. By "at school" we mean in the school building, on the school grounds, or on a school bus. Be sure to include crimes you have told me about earlier in this interview.

PGM 4

26a. During the past six months, did anyone take money or things DIRECTLY FROM YOU by force, weapons, or threats at school ? — 1041

1 ☐ Yes
2 ☐ No — *SKIP to question 27a*

b. How many times did this happen during the last six months? — 1042

☐☐☐ Number of times

c. How many of these times was your total loss worth more than $10? — 1043

☐☐☐ Number of times

27a. During the last six months, did anyone steal something from your desk, locker, or some other place at school, (other than any incidents just mentioned)? — 1044

1 ☐ Yes
2 ☐ No — *SKIP to question 28a*

b. How many times did this happen during the last six months? — 1045

☐☐☐ Number of times

c. How many of these times was your total loss worth more than $10? — 1046

☐☐☐ Number of times

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G. Victimization — Continued

28a. (Other than the incidents just mentioned), did anyone physically attack you at school during the last six months? 1047
1 ☐ Yes
2 ☐ No — *SKIP to question 29*

b. How many times did this happen? 1048 ☐☐☐ Number of times

c. Did you go to a doctor as a result of (this/any of these) attacks? 1049
1 ☐ Yes
2 ☐ No — *SKIP to question 28e*

CHECK ITEM A
If attacked only once, SKIP to question 28e.

d. How many times did you receive injuries in any of these attacks at school that led to a visit to the doctor? 1050 ☐☐☐ Number of times

e. (1) *If 28b is one time, ASK* — **Was that incident an attack or just a fight?**
(2) *If 28b is more than one, ASK* — **How many of these** *(fill in number from 28b)* **attacks were just fights?** 1051 ☐☐☐ Number of fights
0 ☐ Incident was an attack

H. Avoidance

29a. Did you stay at home any time during the last six months because you thought someone might attack or harm you at school? 1052
1 ☐ Yes
2 ☐ No — *SKIP to question 30*

b. How many times did you stay at home because you thought someone might attack or harm you at school? 1053 ☐☐☐ Number of times

30. Did you STAY AWAY from any of the following places because you thought someone might attack or harm you there? *READ THE CATEGORIES.*

a. The shortest route to school?	1054	1 ☐ Yes	2 ☐ No
b. The entrances into the school?	1055	1 ☐ Yes	2 ☐ No
c. Any hallways or stairs in school?	1056	1 ☐ Yes	2 ☐ No
d. Parts of the school cafeteria?	1057	1 ☐ Yes	2 ☐ No
e. Any school restrooms?	1058	1 ☐ Yes	2 ☐ No
f. Other places inside the school building?	1059	1 ☐ Yes	2 ☐ No
g. School parking lot?	1060	1 ☐ Yes	2 ☐ No
h. Other places on school grounds?	1061	1 ☐ Yes	2 ☐ No
i. Extra-curricular school activities?	1062	1 ☐ Yes	2 ☐ No

31. How often are you afraid that someone will attack or harm you at school? 1063
1 ☐ Never
2 ☐ Almost never
3 ☐ Sometimes
4 ☐ Most of the time

32. How often are you afraid that someone will attack or harm you on the way to and from school? 1064
1 ☐ Never
2 ☐ Almost never
3 ☐ Sometimes
4 ☐ Most of the time

33. During the last six months how often did you bring something to school to protect yourself from being attacked or harmed? 1065
1 ☐ Never — *SKIP to Check Item B*
2 ☐ Almost never
3 ☐ Sometimes
4 ☐ Most of the time
} *ASK question 34*

34. What did you bring to school to protect yourself from being attacked or harmed? 1066
Mark (X) all that apply.
1 ☐ Gun
2 ☐ Knife
3 ☐ Brass knuckles
4 ☐ Razor blade
5 ☐ Spiked jewelry
6 ☐ Mace
7 ☐ Nunchucks
8 ☐ Something else — *Specify* _____

35. Did bringing the weapon to school make you feel any safer? 1067
1 ☐ Yes
2 ☐ No

CHECK ITEM B
Is this the last household member to be interviewed?
☐ Yes — *END SUPPLEMENT*
☐ No — *Interview next household member*

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(Revised October 1991)

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